

Testimony in Favor of HB 1175
Rudie Martinson, Executive Director, ND Hospitality Association
Before the House Industry, Business, and Labor Committee
January 27, 2021

Chairman Lefor and members of the House Industry, Business, and Labor Committee,

My name is Rudie Martinson, and I appear before you today as Executive Director of the ND Hospitality Association. We are North Dakota's trade association for the restaurant, lodging, and retail beverage industries. We appreciate the opportunity to stand before you today and express our support for House Bill 1175.

We are happy to join our friends in the broader business community to express support for this policy. As you know, the hospitality industry suffered disproportionately during 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic – cancelled travel, cancelled events, and government policy limiting our ability to operate normally were all factors harmful to our bottom line. Our industry, like many others, responded to rapidly changing regulations and guidelines at all levels of government – all while maintaining the safety of our employees, customers, and vendors.

HB 1175 represents an opportunity for the legislature to join 30 other states in providing critical protection for the business community that congress has so far been unable to provide at the national level.

The passage of this legislation is critical to continue to foster economic recovery after the pandemic for all North Dakota businesses, including those in the hospitality sector. For these reasons, the ND Hospitality Association supports HB 1175, and asks the committee for favorable consideration of a “do pass” recommendation.

Thank you.